

# Committee on Government Reform

Tom Davis, Chairman



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Government Reform Committee Hearing: “Winning the Peace: Coalition Efforts to Restore Iraq”**

**What: COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM OVERSIGHT HEARING  
“Winning the Peace: Coalition Efforts to Restore Iraq”**

**When: Wednesday, OCTOBER 8, 2003, 10 a.m.**

**Where: ROOM 2154 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**

#### **Background:**

Through this hearing, the Committee hopes to gain insight from the on-the-ground experience of the people performing reconstruction projects in Iraq as well as the viewpoints of Iraqi-Americans, scholars, and others who have recently observed the reconstruction process.

In August, Committee Chairman Tom Davis led a delegation of eleven Members on a three-day Iraq trip. The delegation visited Baghdad, Mosul, Tikrit, Babylon and Al Hillah, and observed many improvements in postwar Iraq due to the hard work of dedicated military and civilian Americans as well as the Iraqi citizens themselves. The Members also discussed accomplishments, challenges, and plans for improvements with members of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) as well as the American military forces in Iraq. The Members learned several important lessons from the trip, such as:

- While the rotation of military forces in Iraq is essential, increasing the number of military personnel in the area may not be necessary or advisable to accomplish the mission.

- Reconstituting a qualified and effective Iraqi military police force and border protection guard is a key element to improving overall security in Iraq. The development of functioning institutions in a secure environment is essential to Iraq's progress. Furthermore, the sooner Iraqis can take responsibility for their own affairs, the sooner U.S. forces can come home.
- Human intelligence can be improved with the participation of Iraqi-Americans who have the skills, knowledge, and willingness to assist in intelligence gathering and analysis. But these individuals must be actively recruited and quickly vetted through the security clearance process to be effective.
- Iraqi citizens can provide vital intelligence about the whereabouts of weapons of mass destruction, but the coalition forces should be authorized to grant relocation and protective status to informants and their extended families.
- The best outcomes in reconstruction projects appear to result from direct funding to military units engaged in the projects. Additional flexibility in procurement procedures will expedite this process.
- Saddam Hussein misappropriated much of the money loaned to Iraq for his own personal benefit to the detriment of the Iraqi people. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney has introduced H.R. 2482, which could greatly benefit the people of Iraq by canceling Odious Debt in accordance with customary international law.

While operations in Iraq are still young – we are only 160 days into the rebuilding effort – we have accomplished much. We are building schools, reconstructing hospitals, and modernizing the utilities infrastructure at a pace that surpasses operations we led after World War II, and we are well ahead of the pace of our reconstruction efforts in the Balkans. Still, most of the media accounts of post-war Iraq discuss rampant chaos and mismanagement. However, according to a public opinion poll conducted in August by the Zogby Group, more than two-thirds of those who expressed an opinion wanted Coalition troops to remain in Iraq for at least another year and 70% of Iraqis said they expect their country and their personal lives to be better in five years.

Just southwest of Baghdad, the Davis delegation visited with U.S. Marines and learned of their successes with the Iraqi people. Everyday our Marines earn the respect and trust of the Iraqi citizens. Confrontations which may have been common in the early days were only at a trickle just a few weeks ago. What we have learned is that confrontations are mainly caused by Iraqis bent on either restoring the old regime or by non-Iraqis sent in to destabilize the Coalition efforts. It is here we face our greatest challenge.

The delegation visited a hospital and saw that the U.S. presence is making a real difference in the country. At this time, in Iraq, nearly all major hospitals and universities have been restarted, and hundreds of schools have been rebuilt and are educating students. As the delegation witnessed in the city of Mosul, through the help of Army Major General David Petraeus, Commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, the Iraqis are eagerly coming forward to actively participate in and take responsibility for their country. They are joining the Iraqi civil service, local and national institutions, and police, border security and defense forces to rebuild their nation.

## **WITNESSES**

### Panel I

The Honorable Les Brownlee, Acting Secretary of the Army

Mr. Philo Dibble, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs

Mr. Tom Korologos, Senior Advisor to Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority

U.S. Army Major General Carl Strock, Director of Operations and Infrastructure, Coalition Provisional Authority

Mr. Bernie Kerik, former Director of the Interior, Coalition Provisional Authority

### Panel II

Mr. Alaa H. Haidari, Iraqi-American

Dr. Lamya Alarif, Iraqi-American

Dr. Ramsay Dass, President, Iraqi-American Forum

Ms. Beate Sirota Gordon, Constitutional Scholar

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